## **ABSTRACT**

A process for conveniently and industrially producing an optically active  $\alpha$ -methylcysteine derivative, which is useful as an intermediate of medicines and the like, from an inexpensive and readily available material is provided.

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The present invention relates to a process for producing a racemic or optically active  $\alpha$ -methylcysteine derivative including a step of hydrolyzing a racemic or optically active N-carbamyl- $\alpha$ -methylcysteine derivative by treating with decarbamylase, and a process for producing an optically active  $\alpha$ -methylcysteine derivative and an optically active N-carbamyl- $\alpha$ -methylcysteine derivative having a configuration opposite to that of the compound including a step of stereoselectively hydrolyzing a racemic N-carbamyl- $\alpha$ -methylcysteine derivative by treating with decarbamylase.